Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 08145 261528Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 ICAE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 /063 W
----------058681 261530Z /72
O 261523Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6250
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO USNMR SHAPE
USLO SACLANT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 08145

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, NAC, BE
SUBJECT: WASHINGTON SUMMIT

REF: STATE 105941

1. WE DISCUSSED INFORMATION PROVIDED REFTEL WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY CHIEF OFNATO AFFAIRS, ERIK BAL, APRIL 26.

2. BAL SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT THE SUBJECT WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED ATNATO, REPEATING IN LOW KEY THE ARGUMENTS REPORTED IN BRUSSELS 6414. BASED ON OUR PREVIOUS TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH USNATO WE WERE ABLE TO REASSURE HIM ON THIS POINT.

3. BAL THAN GAVE US HIS INITIAL REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL THAT MINISTERS OF DEFENSE PARTICIPATE IN APPROPRIATE MEETINGS OFMAY SUMMIT. HE SAID THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENTWOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THEU.S.VIEWPOINT IN DECIDING WHETHER TO HAVE MOD VANDEN BOEYNANTS PARTICIPATE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THATTHIS U.S. PROCEDURAL PREFERENCE WAS CLOSELY LINKED TO SUBSTANCE.
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 08145 261528Z

THE SUBSTANCE, IN BAL'SVIEW, IS THE LTDP AND THEBELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET DECIDED ON HOW FAR ITWILL BE ABLE TO GO ON THIS ISSUE. THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF THE LTDP IS UNDER CONSIDERATION AT THE MOMENTWITHIN THEBELGIAN GOVERNMENT. BAL COMMENTED THAT DISCUSSIONS ON THE LTDP WERE ALSO CONTINUING AT NATO AND ITWOULD BE ADDRESSED AT THE DPC BEFORE THE SUMMIT. HE SPECULATED THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY NOT DECIDEON MOD VANDEN BOEYNANTS'ATTENDANCE AT THE

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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

SUMMIT UNTIL AFTER THE DPC.

4. FOR USNATO: TO CONFIRM NAVEZ-COLLINS TELECON, BAL SAID HEWOULD DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH THE BELGIAN PERMREP AND WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY VESTAT AMBASSADOR BENNETT'S DINNER APRIL 26, IF THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES. CHAMBERS

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